

Message Text

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PAGE 01 USUN N 02488 042337Z
ACTION SS-25

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4762
INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 2488

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, UNGA, UN, KS
SUBJECT: 32ND UNGA: ROK MEMBERSHIP IN THE UN

REF: A. SEOUL 6481; B. USUN 1807; C. STATE 110260

1. SUMMARY: USUN'S INITIAL REACTION TO ROK PROPOSAL REPORTED
REFTEL A IS THAT THERE IS MORE POTENTIAL LOSS THAN GAIN IN
CIRCULATION OF ROK MEMORANDUM REGARDING UN MEMBERSHIP
BEFORE OPENING OF 32ND UNGA. END SUMMARY.

2. REGARDING CIRCULATION OF ROK MEMORANDUM ON UN MEMBERSHIP,
AUGUST 21 DEADLINE FOR INSCRIBING "SUPPLEMENTARY" AGENDA ITEMS
FOR UNGA DOES NOT PRECLUDE INSCRIPTION OF "ADDITIONAL" ITEMS
UNDER RULE 15 OF UNGA RULES OF PROCEDURE. ONLY DIFFERENCE IS
THAT "ADDITIONAL" ITEMS MUST BE OF "IMPORTANT AND URGENT
CHARACTER". OVER THE YEARS, "IMPORTANT AND URGENT CHARACTER"
HAS COME TO BE GIVEN AN EXTREMELY LIBERAL INTERPRETATION IN
THE UNGA. "ADDITIONAL" ITEMS MAY BE INSCRIBED DURING UNGA
SESSION AS WELL. THE PROVISION UNDER RULE 15 THAT "ADDITIONAL"
ITEMS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE MAJORITY OF THE MEMBERS
PRESENT AND VOTING IN PLENARY WOULD NOT IN ITSELF APPEAR
A STUMBLING BLOCK, SINCE, IN ANY EVENT, THE RECOMMENDED
AGENDA AS PUT FORWARD BY THE UNGA GENERAL COMMITTEE ALSO
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REQUIRES PLENARY APPROVAL.

3. WERE ROK TO CIRCULATE MEMORANDUM BEFORE OPENING OF
UNGA, THIS WOULD SURELY TRIGGER DPRK RESPONSE WHICH COULD
INCLUDE INSCRIPTION OF PRO-DPRK ITEM. WE WOULD RECOMMEND,
THEREFORE, THAT DEFERRAL OF ANY SUBMISSION BE MADE AT LEAST
UNTIL AFTER COMMITTEE I HAS CONCLUDED ITS ORGANIZATIONAL

MEETINGS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE NOTE CAUTION EXPRESSED IN
PARA 2 OF REF C, AS WELL AS FACT THAT SO FAR AT LEAST WE ARE
NOT DETECTING NORTH KOREAN ACTIVITIY TO STIMULATE DEBATE OF
KOREAN QUESTION.

4. FYI: WHILE ROK, IN FACE OF PREDICTABLY NEGATIVE UN
SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION, (REF B), STATES THAT IT DOES NOT
INTEND TO PURSUE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AT 32ND UNGA (REF A),
WE BELIEVE THAT AN EFFECTIVE WAY FOR BUILDING SUPPORT TOWARD
EVENTUAL ROK ADMISSION WOULD BE FOR SPEAKERS DURING UNGA
GENERAL DEBATE TO EMPHASIZE DESIRABILITY OF ADMISSION OF
KOREAS. THUS, FRAMEWORK OF PUBLIC SUPPORT COULD BE BEGUN
WHICH, OVER LONGER RUN, COULD SERVE TO HELP BRING ABOUT
EVENTUAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN PERMANENT UN SECURITY COUNCIL
MEMBERS REGARDING ADMISSION OF SOUTH OR BOTH KOREAS.
END FYI.

5. AMB LEONARD IS SCHEDULED TO RECEIVE ROK PERMANENT OBSERVER
ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 5 AT 4:00 PM. AT THAT TIME, PROVIDED
ADDRESSEES PERCEIVE NO OBJECTION, LEONARD PLANS TO NOTE
CONSIDERATION SET FORTH ABOVE IN PARAS 1-3, WHEN MOON
RAISES QUESTION OF MEMORANDUM. FYI: WE HAVE IT FROM ROK
MISOFF THAT AMB MOON RECOMMENDED TO SEOUL THAT SUBMISSION
OF MEMORANDUM AWAIT AT LEAST VIETNAM'S FORMAL ADMISSION
TO UN MEMBERSHIP ON OPENING DAY OF 32ND UNGA SEPTEMBER 20,
BUT FOREIGN MINISTRY ENCOURAGING EARLIER CIRCULATION. WE GOT
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CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT ROK OBSERVER OFFICE SEIZED OF RISKS
INVOLVED. END FYI.

6. MOON ALSO WILL INVITE OUR COMMENTS ON DRAFT CONTINGENCY
RESOLUTION PREPARED IN SEOUL. WHICH HE WILL PRESENT TO
LEONARD. ADDITIONALLY, MOON MAY BE EXPECTED TO ASK LEONARD
ABOUT OUR REACTION TO PYONGYANG'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF
SEA-DEFENSE ZONE.
LEONARD

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